



Master's, Past Master's & Wardens Association  
Brant Masonic District

R. W. Bro. Paul Isaac, DDGM,  
Brant Masonic District

Friday March 13, 2020

Brethren:

Over the past 48 hours there has been much development concerning the spread of the Corona (or Covid 19) virus, including how countries, provinces and organizations are trying to minimize the spread of this respiratory virus. Many mid to large scale events have been cancelled – as an example the Province of Ontario is closing all schools for two weeks following the March break. The NHL and NBA have suspended regular season games until further notice. Business organizations have cancelled non – essential travel and in some cases are encouraging employees to work from home. These actions are just to name a few.

On Wednesday March 11, 2020, our Grand Master, M.W. Bro. David J. Cameron, issued a second update to his initial statement on the Covid -19 outbreak , as well a great deal of information has been made available through an Ontario Government website updated twice daily. I applaud the Grand Master for keeping our Lodges well informed and for providing support to the decision-makers of our lodges.

In the past 48 hours we have all watched and heard news from around the world concerning this virus. In doing so it provides me with the impetus to search for the truth. I doing so, I came to a simple conclusion: what can I personally do to minimize the spread the of the virus within my fraternal organization and my community? Following the recommended personal hygiene practices and cleaning surfaces is an attainable goal. The other was to reduce the opportunity to transmit the disease to a large number of carriers e.g.: at meetings and gatherings. As much as I thoroughly enjoy social connections and bonds of attending lodge meetings and events, are they truly essential to the well-being of our fraternity and communities? Does the reason for our meetings and events outweigh the concern of becoming transmitters of a virus that can cause serious illness or even death to family members and friends? Would forgoing these social opportunities for as long as it reasonably takes weaken our fraternity? I think not! In fact, I think it would provide another benevolent bond with our community and families! We would be recognized for taking the necessary steps to reduce the number of unwitting transmitters within our communities, our fraternal organization being one of them.

Leading by example can be extremely difficult for the one who makes the decisions. I very much enjoy visiting the lodges and brethren of our wonderful district. Taking this pleasure away from myself is the most difficult thing I have faced in Masonry. The well-being of our members and our families is a top priority for all of us. We are all leaders in this effort to defeat the Corona Virus. We can succeed in this if we make our decisions based on the calm confidence that is based on science and rational thought and with the understanding that we are all in this together.

Brethren: I fully support the lodges of Brant District if they request dispensation to cancel or postpone meetings or to postpone events. I will be making arrangements with those Lodges regarding my upcoming Official Visits to them in the near future. In the next few days I hope to hear back from those lodges regarding this matter or any cancellations that are upcoming. I will provide additional updates from Grand Lodge to the brethren immediately upon receiving them and will have them posted by the District Secretary as well as by [brantmasons.com](http://brantmasons.com).

I ask that Lodges please cc. myself and the District Secretary on all requests for Dispensations for cancelling meetings, Official Visits and other events (due to concerns over the Covid 19).

Be well in keeping yourselves and your families safe!

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